

REMARKS

Claims 14-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-13 were previously canceled, and claims 20-33 are canceled herein. Claim 14 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

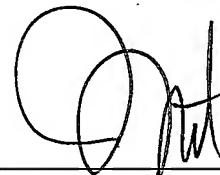
Claims 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,054,255 to Nakoaka, *et al.* (hereinafter “Nakoaka”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 14 requires that either R₄ or R₅ or both contain a silicon atom. Accordingly, the claimed composition contains at least two silicon atoms between R₄ and/or R₅ together with the other silicon atom in the claimed composition. Nakaoka discloses only polymerizable compositions that do not contain more than a single silicon atom. The silicon content in a polymer composed of the claimed polymerizable material is important for the dimensional stability of the resist layer to be built up. The higher the silicon content in a monomer to be polymerized, the higher the silicon content in a polymer composed of said monomers. Thus, by increasing the silicon content in the claimed composition – as required by residues R₄ and R₅ as specified above, the dimensional stability of a resist layer to be formed is improved in a simple and effective way. Such an improvement – chemically introducing more than one silicon atom in a monomer to be polymerized – is not found in Nakaoka. Consequently, Nakaoka does not teach each and every element of claim 14. Furthermore, the Nakaoka disclosure does not suggest a polymerizable composition with more than one silicon atom. Accordingly, claim 14 is allowable over the Nakaoka reference.

Claims 15-19 depend from claim 14 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicant's attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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